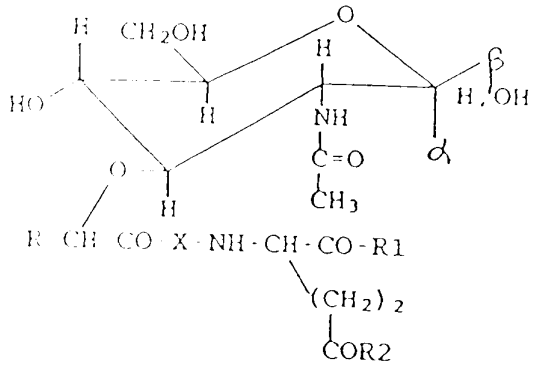
IN THE CLAIMS :

Please cancel Claims 14 to 24 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the following claims:

25. (Once Amended) [The process of claim 14, wherein the muramyl peptide has the formula] A process for inhibiting the replication of acquired immunodeficiency retroviruses in man or in those animals which said retroviruses are capable of infecting, which comprises administering as a principal ingredient to said man or said animals in need of such treatment an effective amount of a muramyl peptide of formula:



in which the group R is a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl residue, and R1 is an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x= 1, 2, 3 or 4, R2 is, independently of R1, either an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x= 1, 2, 3 or 4, and wherein said effective amount is also an amount that is capable of causing a 100% inhibition of the replication of said [retrovirus] retroviruses in primary cultures of monocytes of the host.

29. (Once Amended) The process of claim 25, which is for the prevention or treatment of AIDS or related syndromes[, especially Kaposi's sarcoma].

31. (Once Amended) The process of claim 30, wherein the other molecule is a cytokine[, such as an α-,β- or γ- interferon].

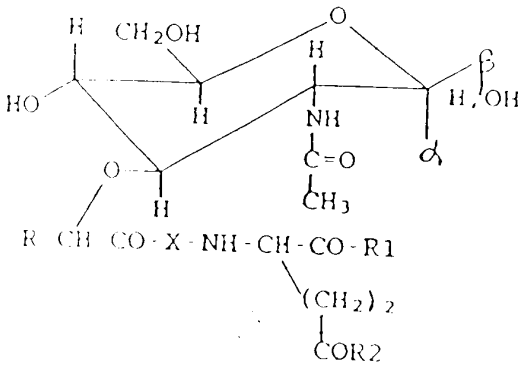
Claim 34, line 1, after "claim" please delete "14" and substitute --25-- therefor.

Please add the following new Claims:

--35. The process of claim 31, wherein the cytokine is selected from the group of an α-,β- or γ- interferon.--

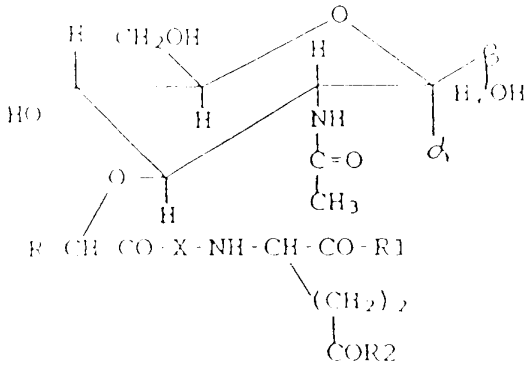
~~--36. The process of~~ claim 25, which is for the prevention or treatment of ~~Kaposi's sarcoma~~.--

--37. A process for inhibiting the replication of acquired immunodeficiency retroviruses in man or in those animals which said retroviruses are capable of infecting, which comprises administering as a principal ingredient to said man or said animals in need of such treatment between 1 to 500 μg/kg/day of a muramyl peptide of formula:



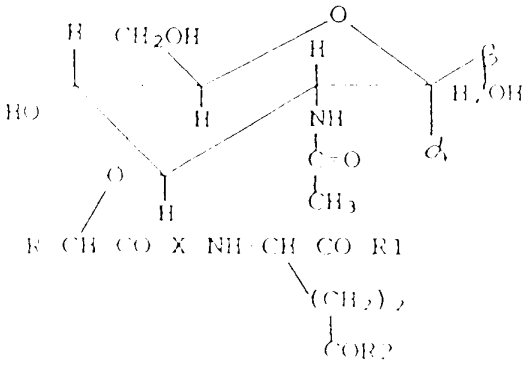
in which the group R is a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl residue, and R1 is an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x=1, 2, 3 or 4, R2 is, independently of R1, either an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x= 1,2, 3 or 4.--

--38. A process for inhibiting the replication of acquired immunodeficiency retroviruses in man or in those animals which said retroviruses are capable of infecting, which comprises administering as a principal ingredient to said man or said animals in need of such treatment an effective amount of a muramyl peptide of formula:



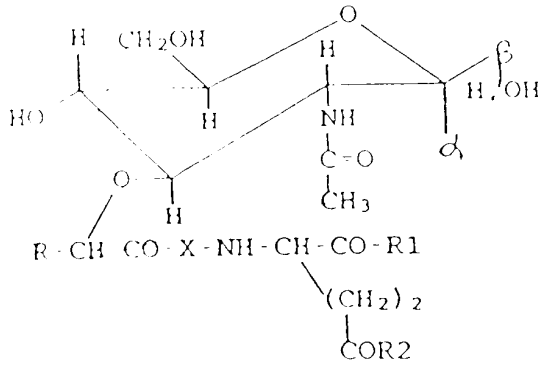
in which the group R is a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl residue, and R1 is an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x= 1, 2, 3 or 4, R2 is, independently of R1, either an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x= 1, 2, 3 or 4, wherein said effective amount is also an amount that is capable of causing a 100% inhibition of the replication of said retroviruses in primary cultures of monocytes of the host, and wherein said inhibitory activity of replication of said muramyl peptide is independent of adjuvant activity.--

--39. A process for inhibiting the replication of acquired immunodeficiency retroviruses in man or in those animals which said retroviruses are capable of infecting, which comprises administering as a principal ingredient to said man or said animals in need of such treatment between 1 to 500 μg/kg/day of a muramyl peptide of formula:



in which the group R is a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl residue, and R1 is an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x=1, 2, 3 or 4, R2 is, independently of R1, either an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x= 1,2, 3 or 4 and wherein said inhibitory activity of replication of said muramyl peptide is independent of adjuvant activity.--

--40. A process for inhibiting the replication of acquired immunodeficiency retroviruses in HIV-infected man or in animals, which comprises administering to said man or said animals in need of said treatment an amount of a principal ingredient which causes 100% inhibition of the replication of said retroviruses in primary cultures of monocytes of the host, wherein said principal ingredient consists of a muramyl peptide of formula:



in which the group R is a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl residue, and R1 is an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x= 1, 2, 3 or 4, R2 is, independently of R1, either an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x= 1, 2, 3 or 4.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the subject application, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. Section 1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Applicant's representatives would like to thank the Examiner for the courteous interview extended to them on June 1, 1999. As discussed during the interview,